

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KHARTO 02321 131238Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 /096 W
-----035102 131316Z /43

R 131133Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4847
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY SANA
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 2321

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PINR, ET, SU
SUBJECT: SUDAN VIEWS ON ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA

1. IN MEETINGS JULY 11 WITH ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF
GEN. MOHAMED OSMAN HASHIM AND JULY 13 WITH IBRAHIM TAHA
AYOUB, NEW DG POLAFFS AT FONOFF, DCM WAS ABLE GET READING
ON LATEST SUDANGOV INFO AND ASSESSMENTS OF SITUATION IN
ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA. GEN HASHIM ON MONDAY SAID ERITREANS
HAD NOT YET COMPLETELY TAKEN KEREN, BUT ON WEDNESDAY AYOUB
SAID SUDANESE INTELLIGENCE HAD REPORTED EVENING BEFORE FROM
KARORA THAT ERITREANS NOW FULLY CONTROLLED KEREN. HOWEVER,
HE DID NOT KNOW EXTENT TO WHICH ERITREANS CONTROLLED
ASMARA AREA. AYOUB SAID ERITREANS CONTROL KEREN-ASMARA ROAD.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 KHARTO 02321 131238Z

GEN HASHIM SAID ERITREANS HAVE SURROUNDED ASMARA, AND
SKIRMISHES HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITHIN 30 MILES OF CITY.

2. ASKED TO EXPLAIN WHY EPMG FORCES COULD NOT HOLD KEREN,
GEN HASHIM SAID GOVT FORCES IN ERITREA, PRESUMABLY NEWLY
FORMED MILITIA, WERE TWOO INEXPERIENCED, WHILE AYOUB CITED
LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS. VIEW IN SUDANGOV SEEMS TO BE THAT FOR

NOW ERITREAN REBELS WILL MAINTAIN CONTROL OF MOST OF ERITREAN COUNTRYSIDE, BUT AYOUB, WHO HAS SERVED BOTH IN ASMARA AND ADDIS AND AS LEADING SUDANESE ETHIOPIA EXPERT HAD BEEN NAMED AS AMBASSADOR TO COUNTRY, SAID HE DOUBTED ERITREANS WOULD EVER ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE. HE SAID SAUDIS WERE UNSURE OF DESIRABILITY OF INDEPENDENT ERITREA, EGYPTIANS WERE LUKEWARM, AND SUDAN SIMPLY WAS UNABLE PROVIDE SUPPORT ERITREANS NEEDED. HE SAID MODERATE ARABS FEARED CREATION OF SECOND SOUTH YEMEN ON WESTERN SHORE OF RED SEA. THUS, AYOUB BELIEVES REAL AUTONOMY FOR ERITREA WITHIN ETHIOPIAN STATE REMAINS ONLY VIABLE ALTERNATIVE.

3. DCM NOTED THAT EPMG ALREADY RADICAL. AT FIRST AYOUB SAID PRESENT REGIME WOULD NOT LAST BUT SOME RADICAL SUCCESSOR PROBABLY WOULD EXIST FOR SOME TIME. HE SAID PRESENTLY INTERNAL POLITICAL BATTLE IN ETHIOPIA IS BETWEEN LEFTIST ARMY ELEMENTS LED BY MENGISTU AND CIVILIAN LEFTIST THEORETICIANS WHO LOOK FORWARD TO TRULY MARXIST-LENINIST PARTY STATE. HE FORESEES AN EVENTUAL SHOWDOWN BETWEEN THESE ELEMENTS ON THE LEFT BOTH OF WHICH WOULD BE HOSTILE TO MODERATE ARABS AND US.

4. COMMENT: BASED ON THESE RECENT CONVERSATIONS IT APPEARS SUDANGOV FORESEES CONTINUING STALEMATE IN ERITREA WITH NEITHER SIDE ABLE COMPLETELY OVERCOME OTHER. THEY NOTE CONTINUING INABILITY ERITREANS UNIFY THEIR EFFORTS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 KHARTO 02321 131238Z

AYOUB'S ASSESSMENT OF ARAB SUPPORT FOR ERITREA IS MOST PESSIMISTIC WE HAVE HEARD IN SOME TIME. SIMILARLY, SUDANESE OFFICIALS SEE CONTINUING INTERNAL STRUGGLE WITHIN ETHIOPIAN REGIME, BUT EITHER WAY THEY SEE RADICAL, UNFRIENDLY GROUP ULTIMATELY PREVAILING. WHOEVER WINS INTERNAL POLITICAL STRUGGLE WILL LIKELY BE RADICAL, SUSCEPTIBLE TO SOVIET INFLUENCE IF NOT CONTROL AND UNWILLING GIVE UP EITHER ERITREA OR OGADEN. THUS, FOR SUDAN GOV LONG TERM OUTLOOK IN ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA IS NOT RPT NOT PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGING. BERGUS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KHARTO02321
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770249-0216
Format: TEL
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770763/aaaaccnf.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 40fc576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1880275
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUDAN VIEWS ON ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PINR, ET, SU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/40fc576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009